

Wants the Deploy National Guard Troops to the Border Act added to National Defense Authorization Act

WASHINGTON - U.S. Reps. Harry E. Mitchell and Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) today filed a bipartisan amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2011 to deploy a minimum of 3,000 additional National Guard troops to the border. The amendment mirrors legislation that Mitchell and Rohrabacher introduced last week, H.R. 5357 - the Deploy National Guard Troops to the Border Act.

"We need additional National Guard troops, and we need them now," said Mitchell. "This is an issue of national security and I hope the House will approve our bipartisan border security amendment. Arizona continues to pay a huge price for the federal government's failure to secure the border, and it isn't fair."

In addition to offering the amendment, Mitchell has also written to the House Appropriations Committee to request that the upcoming Supplemental Appropriations Act include the Deploy National Guard Troops to the Border Act. [[Letter to Chairman Obey](#) , May 24, 2010]

"I'm looking at several legislative options," said Mitchell.

In 2008, Mitchell offered an amendment to the Defense Authorization Act to extend the National Guard's deployment as part of Operation Jump Start. The amendment was ultimately blocked from floor consideration. [Source: [Mitchell Release](#) , May 20, 2008]

Mitchell has repeatedly called upon the President to bring National Guard troops back to the border to help fight the growing threat posed by Mexican drug cartels. In 2007 and again in 2008, Mitchell wrote to President Bush to ask him to extend the National Guard's deployment as part of Operation Jump Start. [Sources: [Mitchell Release](#) , August 9, 2007; [Mitchell Release](#) , May 7, 2008;

[Green Valley News & Sun](#) , May 21, 2008]

In 2009 and in 2010, Mitchell wrote to President Obama to request National Guard troops be placed on the border. [Sources: [Letter to President](#) , March 25, 2009; [Letter to the President](#) , March 30, 2010; [Mitchell Release](#) , July 6, 2009].

National Guard troops have proven highly effective in the past. According to the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, during Operation Jump Start, the Yuma Sector experienced a 68 percent decrease in apprehensions between October 1, 2006, and July 31, 2007, compared with the previous year. Border-wide, the National Guard helped seize more than 1,080 vehicles used to transport drugs and/or illegal immigrants, more than 300,600 pounds of marijuana, and 5,060 pounds of cocaine.

Last year, Mitchell teamed with Rep. Brian Bilbray (R-Cal.) to amend the Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill to secure millions of dollars in additional funding for security improvements at the border. [Source: [Mitchell Release](#) , Oct. 29, 2009]

Mitchell has also commissioned a Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation to examine federal efforts to identify and remove criminal aliens and combat drop houses which act as way stations for drugs and humans smuggled across the border. The results of this multi-year investigation are expected by early summer 2010. [Source: [Mitchell Release](#) , April 26, 2010]

In Arizona, the Phoenix metropolitan area is believed to have about 1,000 drop houses, many of which are used as way stations for drug and human smuggling operations. [Source: Associated Press, Jan. 16, 2008] The crime associated with smuggling operations was one of reasons that last year, ABC News called Phoenix the "Kidnapping Capital of the U.S.A". [Source: [ABC News](#) , Feb. 11, 2009]

Mitchell Introduces Amendment to Deploy National Guard Troops to the Border

Tuesday, 25 May 2010 14:01

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